

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03473 030645Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----030647Z 049517 /20

R 030621Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3338
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3473

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, SY, SA, US
SUBJECT: PRINCE FAHD'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH ARAB
AMBASSADORS

1. DURING JUNE 1 DISCUSSION WITH MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHOUFI, LATTER GAVE US READOUT ON CABLE HE SAID HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM SYRIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON SUMMARIZING PRINCE FAHD'S REACTION TO TALKS WITH USG. (CHARGE ATTENDED BRIEFING WHICH FAHD GAVE ARAB AMBASSADORS.) ACCORDING TO SHOUFI'S VERSION OF CABLE, FAHD REMARKED THAT:

A. HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF PEACE EFFORTS.

B. CARTER ALLEGEDLY ASKED FAHD WHY ARAB STATES WOULD NOT PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL. FAHD IN REPLY ASKED CARTER WHETHER U.S. WOULD IN RETURN GUARANTEE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. CARTER RESPONDED THAT U.S. COULD NOT ISSUE SUCH A GUARANTEE, TO WHICH FAHD REJOINED THAT IT SHOULD THUS BE CLEAR WHY ARAB STATES COULD NOT NOW ACT AS PRESIDENT WISHED.

2. SHOUFI SAID FAHD HAD TOLD AMBASSADORS THAT HE HAD OBTAINED
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FROM YASSIR ARAFAT WRITTEN PLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI RECOGNITION OF PLO, BUT SHOUFI ADDED IT NOT CLEAR FROM CABLE WHETHER FAHD HAD TABLED THIS WITH USG.

3. FAHD ADVISED AMBASSADORS OF POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL WOULD ATTACK ARAB STATES AND ADVISED THEM TO CABLE THEIR

GOVERNMENTS TO PREPARE FOR WAR.

4. COMMENT: WE RECOGNIZE FOREGOING VERSION OF FAHD'S VIEWS
HAS REACHED US THROUGH SEVERAL INTERMEDIARIES AND MAY BE
CONSIDERABLE DISTORTION OF HIS VIEWS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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